Resources

For more information on medical conditions and driving, contact:

Arizona Dept. of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division Medical Review Program 1452 N. Elesio Felix Jr. Way Avondale, AZ 85323 623-925-5795

For additional information on Alzheimer's Disease, contact the Alzheimer's Association:

www.alz.org

1-800-392-0022

Desert Southwest Chapter 1028 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85006-2622 602-528-0545

Northern Arizona Region 225 Grove Ave., Ste. B Prescott, AZ 86301

928-771-9257 1-800-773-7840

(outside Yavapai County)

Southern Arizona Region 5132 E. Pima St. Tucson, AZ 85712 520-322-6601 1-800-425-9080

or contact:

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging P.O. Box 6123-008A Phoenix, AZ 85005-6123 602-542-4710 gaca@mail.de.state.az.us Governor's
Advisory Council on Aging
P.O. Box 6123-008A
Phoenix, AZ 85005
602-542-4710
gaca@mail.de.state.az.us

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program ♦ Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging must make a reasonable accommodation to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program. service, or activity. For example, this means that if necessary, the Council must provide sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, a wheelchair accessible location, or enlarged print materials. It also means that the Council will take any other reasonable action that allows you to take part in and understand a program or activity, including making reasonable changes to an activity. If you believe that you will not be able to understand or take part in a program or activity because of your disability, please let us know of your disability needs in advance if at all possible. • This document is available in alternative formats by contacting the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging at 602-542-4710.



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ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE and Related Dementias Control Related DRIVING



Suggestions for Caregivers



Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive disorder that affects an estimated 4 million American adults. The rate of progression varies from person to person.

As a caregiver of a person with Alzheimer's disease, you are in a difficult spot. At some



point, you need to encourage this person to give up driving. The safety of the individual and others depends on your actions.

Many of the symptoms of

Alzheimer's disease can have an effect on safe driving:

- Memory loss
- · Inability to perform routine tasks
- Impaired judgement
- Disorientation
- Personality change
- Impaired visual or spatial perception
- Reduced response/reaction time
- Diminished attention span

Assessing Driving Ability

To assess the driving ability of a person with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia, answer these questions:

 Does he or she become confused while driving?

- Does he or she seem accident prone?
- Does he or she have difficulty understanding road signs?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, you need to take action to protect yourself and others.

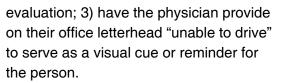
Taking Action

If you believe a person can no longer drive safely, there are options available.

 Encourage the person to stop driving and return the driver's license. You cannot return a license for someone else. The driver must sign a cancellation form, available from the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), stating he or she is surrendering the license.

Either you or the driver can send the signed statement and license to the MVD. The mailing address can be found on the back panel of this brochure. The signed form and license can also be taken to an MVD service center.

Talk to the person's physician about the driving problems you observe. The physician may make an assessment of the individual, or refer the person to a specialist for assessment. You can then 1) advise the person to stop driving;
 write to the MVD requesting retesting of the person's driving skills or a medical



• Write a letter to the MVD. The letter must include the person's full name (with middle initial, if any), date of birth and current address. Describe your concerns about the person's driving. A person's age alone is not cause for a license withdrawal action. Information in a person's medical file with the MVD is confidential. However, it is subject to subpoena if the case goes to court.

The letter must be signed. The MVD will review the information and take appropriate actions. The division may send the driver a medical examination report to be completed by his or her physician. A written, vision or driving skills re-examination may be required. It is possible all of the above may be required.

 Keep car keys out of the reach of the person, if you believe he or she can no longer drive safely.



- Disable the vehicle. Remove the distributor cap or the coil wire, for instance.
- Discuss the situation with your local Alzheimer's Association chapter.
 Phone numbers are listed on the last panel of this brochure.